



Village of Brookfield

A news release from the
Village of Brookfield

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Brookfield to Defend Board Decision on District 208 Neighborhood Parking Lot

Brookfield, IL –The Village of Brookfield was served May 20, 2015 with litigation from the Riverside Brookfield High School District 208 pertaining to the recent Special Use application for a neighborhood parking lot. It is incredibly disappointing in the economic environment of 2015, where every tax dollar should be carefully and efficiently spent, and there are constant threats to Village services as well as the educational system, that one governmental body would choose litigation against another over 90 parking spaces.

"The Village has worked with RBHS for nearly a decade after an agreement to utilize the Rockefeller right-of-way for school parking set the bar for intergovernmental cooperation," said Village Manager Keith R. Sbiral. The Village of Brookfield is disappointed in the change in tenor of the current RBHS administration and the position they have taken against the Village of Brookfield in pursuing the proposed parking lot construction adjacent to the Hollywood neighborhood. The District has demonstrated an ignorance of the resident property owner concerns and the impact the parking lot would have on the adjacent neighborhood. Sbiral continued, "The issue at hand is not if the RBHS needs additional parking but rather the right of the Village of Brookfield to enforce the zoning code, which the Village believes it is legally entitled to do."

Village President Kit P. Ketchmark stated, "I have discussed this pending litigation individually with the board members, and have asked the Village Manager to review our budget to allow for the substantial legal fees that will be expended on this lawsuit. This will cause certain projects and budgetary initiatives of the Village to be placed on hold, as the Village has operated under a balanced budget and sound fiscal planning for over a decade." The Village Attorney is currently reviewing the complaint and has 60 days for an initial response. Ultimately the litigation and appeal process could take years to resolve.

Over the last ten years the Village of Brookfield has aggressively pursued cost cutting efforts and improvements in efficiency and effective governmental operations. The Village has not increased the Village property tax rate and has operated the municipal government within a balanced budget while setting aside a restricted reserve fund to protect against economic downturns. The Village has adopted a capital improvement plan, which logically schedules capital expenditures and responsibly manages the capital assets of the Village.

The Village has worked closely with the District on their parking concerns in the past, even closing off Rockefeller and providing that village property for over 100 parking spaces exclusively for school use. That agreement expires in approximately 18 months, when those spaces could revert back to village use. It is ironic that as this agreement draws to a close that the District has chosen to bring suit against the Village while they continue to pursue an additional parking lot, including design for a parking lot on zoo property. It is further disconcerting that a potential agreement and addition of hundreds of parking spaces that would not affect the Hollywood neighborhood of Brookfield was strategically omitted from testimony before the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Village of Brookfield, and in fact was not contemplated in the official testimony or traffic studies presented.

"The Village will adjust our budget to prepare for the litigation brought forth by RBHS while we defend the zoning authority of the Village of Brookfield. It is incredibly unfortunate that they have taken this litigious path rather than utilizing the public process and property owner input to make a stronger project for all taxpayers," said Village President Ketchmark.

For more information about Village of Brookfield please contact the Village Manager's Office at 708.485.7344 or contact Keith R. Sbiral at ksbiral@brookfieldil.gov.

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